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The Diary of Caroline Seabury, 1854-1863

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Quest for Utopia: The Icarians of Adams County, by Paul S. Gauthier. Corning, Iowa: Gauthier Publishing Co., 1992. iv, 157 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography. \$19.75 paper.

REVIEWED BY H. ROGER GRANT, UNIVERSITY OF AKRON

One of America's most enduring communal groups, the Icarians, followers of the famous nineteenth-century French politician and social critic, Étienne Cabet, has attracted considerable attention by scholars, journalists, and other writers. This is understandable. For more than fifty years these communitarians made several attempts to establish a perfect society, first in Texas, later in Illinois, Missouri, and Iowa, and finally in California. Their goal was simple: they hoped to create a society free of human suffering. Since many Icarians had personally experienced the ravages of early industrialism, they believed that the solution to individuals' problems in a changing world was not to revolt or reform but to withdraw completely from society and build a new or parallel one.

Quest for Utopia: The Icarians of Adams County offers little interpretative material, yet it does provide interesting information about the Iowa phase of Icarianism. These utopians initially arrived on the mostly empty prairies of southwestern Iowa in 1852 and remained there, although later split by factionalism, until the 1890s. What is especially useful in this volume is the author's description of what happened to the group after this secular experiment finally collapsed and how local residents have viewed this movement.

Paul S. Gauthier, the author of this inexpensively printed paperback work, is a veteran Corning, Iowa, journalist. Much of this material appeared initially as a series of feature articles in the *Adams County Free Press*, and this book reflects his journalistic endeavors. Surely a highlight of Gauthier's efforts is the large number of illustrations. Also of note is the extensive bibliography of published materials.

The Diary of Caroline Seabury, 1854-1863, edited by Suzanne L. Bunkers. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1991. xi, 148 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$30.00 cloth, \$10.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY ROSEMARY F. CARROLL, COE COLLEGE

The Diary of Caroline Seabury, 1854-1863 is an interesting and informative account by an articulate northern woman of her life in Columbus, Mississippi, both in the antebellum years and through part of the Civil War. Caroline Seabury, a New Englander by birth,

went to Columbus at the age of twenty-seven to teach French at the Columbus Female Institute, a school for the daughters of wealthy planters. Having lost all her family, save for a sister, Martha, and a brother, Channing, Caroline needed an occupation to support herself. Like most middle-class white women similarly situated in the North in the nineteenth century, she became a teacher. Like some of these women, Caroline went South, an area where the prospects of finding a teaching position were often better than in the North. In addition, it is apparent from her diary that Caroline sought a fresh start in life. In the October 7, 1854, entry she noted, "I am leaving a sad, gloomy marked past—going to an untried future, I could only 'let the dead past bury its dead,' hoping for a brighter future, of contented usefulness, at least" (28).

Suzanne Bunkers has done a masterful job in piecing together the scattered fragments of information on the life of Caroline Seabury. Bunkers has written an excellent introduction to the diary that not only sets forth Caroline Seabury's family background but also points out the significance of this diary as the reflections of a northern woman working and living in the American South on the eve of and during the Civil War. Bunkers calls Caroline an "insider/outsider." Keenly conscious of her status as a northerner in the very different culture of the South, Caroline desperately wanted to feel at home but could not; the cultural divide was too great. Her diary became the place where she could express, without restraint, feelings and views that she could not reveal publicly.

Bunkers has provided a real service in publishing *The Diary of Caroline Seabury*. In addition to its intrinsic worth for what it reveals about this northern woman in the American South prior to and during the cataclysm of the Civil War, it also makes a valuable contribution to the field of women's history. Academicians are increasingly attentive to these long neglected women's diaries and the new perspectives and dimensions they add to our understanding of history.

Utah Remembers World War II, by Allan Kent Powell. Logan, UT: Utah State University Press, 1991. xiv, 270 p. Illustrations, index. \$29.95 cloth.

REVIEWED BY D'ANN CAMPBELL, AUSTIN PEAY STATE UNIVERSITY

Fifty-six Utah citizens describe in three- to ten-page oral histories their experiences during World War II. *Utah Remembers* is organized topically and chronologically: "War Comes," "The Military Experi-

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